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16 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter
Mr. Kirkpatrick

NTL

I suggest we re-examine our practice of having senior STATINTL officials, especially the DCI, send letters to foreigners. <del>STATIN</del>TL Recently a congratulatory letter to leaked. I know the advantages to Agency components of having a top-level signature on a piece of paper, but the DCI himself has always expressed concern about the handling of such correspondence and has always suggested that the letter never be left with the recipient. I suggest we need a procedure for the secure handling on a readound-return basis of such letters, and also that a strong justificationals needed for use of such a letter. I personally believe that practically all such messages can be handled orally. have discussed the subject with Mr. Helms who shares my sentiments. STATINTL

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Remarks:

I never have agreed with the principle of sending a lot of letters abroad over the DCI's signature, but the previous DCI seemed to want to do this. I think this is exclusively a DD/P problem, and if Mr. Helms shares your sentiments, then I think the solution is very simple: no more letters to foreigners except for those that will be shown to them and retained in our files.

cc: Gen. Carter

LBK

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